



THE EDUCATOR

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Not-Quite-Post-COVID?

Welcome back! For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic we have started a school year with our traditional conference days where we are all actually in the same room together. The virus is definitely not gone, but its influence on our daily lives is not as pronounced as it was for the past few years.

That is a good thing for education. Online classes and assignments have their place, but there is no substitute for physically being together with our colleagues and seeing our students' faces. We can get back into the practice of human interaction in a way that was either absent, or

very difficult, in recent years. Going forward, if we are using new technology in the classroom it is hopefully a choice made in the best interest of our students, not as a poor substitute for pencil

Online classes and assignments have their place, but there is no substitute for physically being together with our colleagues and seeing our students' faces.

and paper.

Of course, there are still big changes this school year. There is the usual turnover of administrators, and the introduction of numerous new teaching programs like Science21 and Performance Matters. Gone are

the interactive whiteboards that we are accustomed to, replaced with Promethean boards purchased with COVID funds. Our email has also had a drastic change in its conversion from Outlook to Gmail. We'll get used to those, as we have always made do, and then mastered, the myriad new things thrown at us every year.

We haven't changed. We're still the dedicated educators who come back every year to do our jobs to the best of our abilities. Our union hasn't changed either. The ATA is still there for us as we navigate this not-quite-post-COVID world together.

-Sam Falk, editor



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Introducing New CAO Staff

Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

What date was the U.S. Constitution adopted?

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by September 16. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Over the summer three new administrators joined the district's Office of Curriculum and Instruction as part of the restructuring that eliminated the director positions of Dawn Galente and Dana Brown (both now teaching at Vail Farm). Since these new administrators will directly work with ATA members, *The Educator* asked them some questions to help ATA members get to know them and clarify what their jobs entail.

Sal Contes

Q: What is your official job title?

A: Director of Instructional Services

Q: What are the main duties of your job?

A: Oversee the Home-schooling Program, Oversee Library Media Services, Plan and Implement the districtwide RTI/MTSS program. Supervise all Academic Intervention Services (AIS), Oversee the new teacher induction and mentoring program

Q: Can you share something about your background before coming to Arlington?

A: Former teacher/baseball coach in NYC and administrator in NYC and Poughkeepsie City

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to tell ATA members, or have them know about you?

A: Please call me Sal. Always looking to pay it forward to students/families/staff since it was paid forward to me when I was a student, all throughout K-12.

John Orcutt

Q: What is your official job title?

A: Director of Secondary Operations

Q: What are the main

duties of your job?

A: I will be working closely with teachers, administrators, coordinators, and directors to support teaching and learning across the secondary schools.

Q: Can you share something about your background before coming to Arlington?

A: Prior to starting at CAO I was the Executive Principal at Arlington High School for two years, and an administrator at White Plains High School for nine years. My teaching experience was as a Social Studies teacher at New Paltz high school, and I also worked in the Syracuse City School District for a year while I was working on my masters degree as an academic coach.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to tell ATA members, or have them know about you?

A: I am really excited to work with the three secondary schools now, and I look forward to working together to support our students and faculty. I am also excited to visit classrooms in the fall, and meet many of the middle school teachers for the first time. I hope that you all enjoyed the summer, and I wish you all the best.

Stacey Morgan

Q: What is your official job title?

A: Director of Elementary

Operations

Q: What are the main duties of your job?

A: I will be working collaboratively with elementary principals and teacher leaders to maximize instructional leadership. I will also be supporting teachers through professional learning opportunities.

Q: Can you share something about your background before coming to Arlington?

A: I was a classroom teacher for about 16 years, K-5. I was a Reading Recovery teacher and a Literacy Collaborative Leader. When I became an administrator, I worked as an assistant principal, Coordinator of Literacy, Mathematics, and AIS Services, and Funded Program Administrator.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to tell ATA members, or have them know about you?

A: My passion for education is driven by my goal to continuously support student growth. I welcome your input and feedback as we work together to create an educational model which enhances academic performance by creating a community of learners. I am honored and excited to be a part of this educational community and I look forward to working with all of you.

VOTE COPE Contributions Benefit Us

Q. What is VOTE COPE?

It actually stands for Voice of Teachers for Education and Committee on Political Education. These are the voluntary contributions from union members in order to support nonpartisan NYSUT-endorsed candidates that are pro-education and pro-labor. These endorsed candidates that win their election go on to advocate for our students in both Albany and Washington D.C. Our NYSUT union dues do not go towards supporting any political candidates endorsed by NYSUT, only VOTE COPE contributions.

Q. How can I contribute?

There are multiple ways in which one can contribute to VOTE COPE. First, through our payroll department, one can en-

roll to have a percentage taken directly from your check or make a single donation in one pay period. If one decides to make changes to their existing contribution, please contact ATA CAC co-chairs Brendan Lawler or Bill Mueller. We will send you a form and pass this on to the

on how much or little to donate, know that we annually receive a rebate based upon our local's VOTE COPE contribution total. The ATA then uses this money to support our local school board candidates and to aid passing our local school budget. The contributions will directly affect our local political action. This is more important now than ever with anti-education and anti-labor movements' monies rapidly

This year, any changes to one's VOTE COPE can be made through our payroll department until September 30.

payroll department. The amount one contributes is a personal decision. This year, any changes to one's VOTE COPE can be made through our payroll department until September 30.

Q. Where does this money go?

Before making the decision

increasing.

If there are any further questions, please contact Brendan Lawler (blawler@acsdny.org) or William Mueller (wmueller@acsdny.org).

-Bill Mueller,
ATA CAC Co-Chair

Congratulations To Newly Tenured ATA Members

Elementary

Arthur S. May

Kaitlyn Clark Matatia
Kimberly Nicastro
Meaghann Rush
Samantha Rymer

Beekman

Jenna Ricardi

Noxon

Breanna Murphy
Liana Wemple

Overlook

Sarah Armstrong

Titusville

Stephanie Cobb

Vail Farm

Kristen Mateja
Cynthia Welker

West Road

Tatianna Louisidis

Middle

LaGrange

Christina Castillo
Jessica Domes

Ryan Jarvis

Eileen Ploetz
Katelynn Polhill

Union Vale

Lorena Britos
Michelle Keene

High

Michelle DelForno
Lindsay Ellis
Kelley Hunt
Jaclyn Heeney
Carlene O'Connor
Rita Roman

Welcome, New Members!

The Arlington Teachers' Association would like to welcome the following people to the Arlington School District and the ATA. To help us get to know them, each new member was asked **what they will be teaching, where they are from, and what their favorite food is**. Please let us know if there are more additions to your building that we can include in the next issue.

◆ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ◆

Arthur S. May

Jennifer Mohammed—ENL—Poughquag, NY—Pasta
Kristen Monti—Special Education—Poughquag, NY—Sushi

Beekman

Arjeta Gashi—Elementary—Hopewell Junction, NY—Pizza
Kristin McClune—Library—Millerton, NY—Mince & "Tatties"

Central Office

Dawn Jawrower—AIP/RSP—Poughquag, NY—Anything I don't need to cook!
Tracey Rancourt—AIP/RSP—Pleasant Valley, NY—Mashed Potatoes

Noxon

Maria Juliana Bernasconi—ENL—Poughkeepsie, NY
Jami Radogna—1st Grade—Poughquag, NY—Pizza
Tiffany Sivco—Psychologist—Modena, NY—Sushi
Rachel Vetterman—5th Grade ICT—Carmel, NY—Bread

Titusville

Jessica Belanger Reyes (also at VF)—ENL—Pleasant Valley, NY—Shrimp Ceviche
Sherry Dolah—5th Grade—Hopewell Junction, NY—Mattar Paneer
Stephanie Grossi—5th Grade—Hopewell Junction, NY—Pasta
Jennifer Kirschenheiter (also at ASM)—Reading—Hopewell Junction, NY—Dark Chocolate

Traver Road

Jennifer Bronzi—ENL—Beekman, NY—Zupa de Pesce
Erin Muncey—Special Ed. Kindergarten—Wingdale, NY—Ice Cream
Frank Sanzo—Phys. Ed.—Wappingers Falls, NY—Pizza
Jaclyn M. Smith—Kindergarten ICT

Vail Farm

Dana Brown—Reading—Yorktown, NY—Books!
Emma Doerrier—3rd Grade—LaGrangeville, NY—Fruit (cherries, peaches, pears)
Dawn Galente—4th Grade—Millbrook, NY—Chocolate
Cheralynn McCann—Kindergarten—Hopewell Junction, NY
Danielle Moccio—2nd Grade—Carmel, NY—Chicken Parm

West Road

Matt Quinn—5th Grade—Highland, NY—Hot Wings

◆MIDDLE SCHOOL◆

LaGrange

Lauren E. Apuzzo—Science—New Paltz, NY—Bagels

Kiley Besko—Math

Christina Caserta—Psychologist—Bronx, NY—Rice & Beans

Heidi Cruz—Guidance

Angie Doctor—Social Studies—Poughkeepsie, NY—Dessert

David Fendrich—Phys. Ed.—LaGrangeville, NY—Tacos

Carolyn Formichelli—Science—Ridge, NY—Pizza or Sushi

Samaria Gray—Social Worker

Madison Hadley—Math—Marlboro, NY—Pizza

Makenzie Patinella (also at AHS)—Phys. Ed.—Cold Spring, NY—Steak

Leona Pcolar—ENL—Highland, NY—Tacos

Rita Reza—Spanish—Poughkeepsie, NY

Janine Rossi—Spanish—Millbrook, NY—Pan-Seared Ahi Tuna

Anna Sgherzi—Special Education—Putnam Valley, NY—Vegan Cermitas

Natacha Wilson—Guidance

Union Vale

Nicole Haight—Special Education—Wappingers Falls, NY—Italian

Rebecca Kantor—Music—Hopewell Junction, NY—Shrimp

Heidi Reale (also at AHS)—ICT—Poughquag, NY—Chocolate

Chelsea Sablinski—HACS—Pleasant Valley, NY—Pasta

◆HIGH SCHOOL◆

Sarah Baker (also at UVMS)—Art—Wappingers Falls, NY—Pasta

Alec Cerrato—Technology—Hopewell Junction, NY—Venison

Lynne Czajka—Music—Claverack, NY—Sushi

Marisa Drogan—Social Studies—Dover Plains, NY—Seafood

Naomi Nunez—Social Worker

Robert Osterhoudt—Technology—Wurtsboro, NY—Sushi

Rhonda Owens—Life Skills—Brewster, NY—Cheese/Watermelon



Photo by Sam Falk

New teachers and their mentors were treated to lunch while learning about ATA benefits at UVMS on August 30.

2022 — 2023 ATA Officers

President

Bob Maier

First Vice-President

Greg Nieman

Second Vice-President

Steve Hertzog

Treasurer

Dave Cordella

Chief Negotiator

Robert McHugh

PR Committee Chair

Kristine Jackson

Community Action Chairs

Brendan Lawlor

Bill Mueller

Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

Communications Chair

Sam Falk

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — A'Rehema Leach

BES — Christie Boydston

Noxon — Nicolle McMorris

VFES — Gwen Moschetto

OPS — Christene Way

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Barbara Mackey

TIS — Heather Blatz

LMS — Chris Greco

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Theresa Daleo-Stock

What's Going On?

"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing sfalk@acsdny.org. We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

Art

AHS art teacher Sean Bayliss led a four-day "AP Summer Institute" for College Board from July 18 to 21. Hosted online by LaSalle University, the program was about helping teachers learn about how to teach AP Art History. Participants came from locations as diverse as Boston, Atlanta, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

French

AHS foreign language teacher Theresa Daleo-Stock participated in a program in Montreal from June 26 to July 1. She says, "I spent six days with French teachers from across the country in a French immersion program in Montreal. The 2022 Summer Institute for Teachers of French was organized by the North-east National Resource Center on Canada and was run jointly by the University of Maine and SUNY Plattsburgh. During the Institute, we explored the history and culture of Montreal, Quebec and Canada through lectures by Quebecois and Canadian scholars, and through excursions to a varie-



Photo Courtesy Kristy Zukswert

Science

In August AHS science teacher Kristy Zukswert (shown removing a fence at Yellowstone) participated in an eight day program at Yellowstone National Park through Ecology Project International. She describes that, "We collected data on amphibians for an ongoing research project, learned about wolf and bison conservation, removed barbed wire fencing to improve pronghorn migration, explored some EPIC hydrothermals, and challenged ourselves on how to be more sustainable and environmentally conscious humans and educators."

ty of sites that are relevant to the history and culture of Quebec and Canada. During my week in Quebec, I had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other French teachers, in French, and to explore meaningful ways to incorporate Quebec/Canadian culture and North American French content into my curriculum. It was a wonderful experience!"

AHS foreign language teacher Kerri Simeone also immersed herself in French language and culture. On August 13 she reported, "I just came back from a two week stay in Bordeaux France, where I heightened my cultural awareness, ameliorated my French skills, and collaborated with teachers of

French from around the world. I received a scholarship via AATF, for attending webinars during the pandemic. So, I took hold of the opportunity and completed the course for teachers at France Langue in Bordeaux, France. Never did I ever imagine I'd have this experience in my 40s.... It was like study abroad, but for adults!! I even stayed with a host family."

History

Several AHS teachers took part in programs sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities in July. Special Education teacher Colleen Napora traveled to Los Angeles and learned about

See Summer on page 7

ATA Members Had an Enriching Summer

Continued from page 6

Japanese incarceration during WWII in the “Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis” program. Social studies teacher Robert McHugh and science teacher Sam Falk each spent a week in Pittsburgh with the “The Homestead Steel Strike and the Growth of America as an Industrial Power” program learning about labor unions and the steel industry.

Literacy

OPS reading teacher Sarah Armstrong presented a virtual workshop on July 13 as part of Columbia Teachers College’s Reimagining Education Summer Institute. The workshop was titled “Opening the Doors of Literacy:

Cultivating Equitable School Communities at the Primary Level”.

Music

Noxon music teacher Liana Wemple sang Doretta’s dream aria from the film *A Room With a View* as part of The Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice on August 7.

SEL

UVMS health teacher Kathleen Vogt reports that she completed her final course in a 12 credit certificate program offered online through Cambridge College, Massachusetts: “The certificate is for Skills-Based Health/Social Emotional Learning that provided an opportunity to further develop

my knowledge and delivery of health content and skills. Two of the courses within the program I found to be especially valuable focused on delivering language and culturally relevant instruction and examining new perspectives for teaching a comprehensive human sexuality unit. Another highlight of choosing this program was being able to connect with health educators around the country!” Interested health teachers can get more information at <https://tinyurl.com/2bfz4vdm>. There is also a program for physical education teachers with more information at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8nzvxm>, (and discounts for SHAPE America members).

Get To Know New ATA Secretary Cait Quinn



Photo by Sam Falk

ATA Secretary Cait Quinn sits at her desk at the ATA Office.

There is a new face welcoming visitors to the ATA office and answering their phone calls—Cait Quinn has taken over the posi-

tion of administrative assistant from Leslie Battistoni, who retired at the end of the last school year.

Although new to the ATA office, Quinn is no stranger to the ATA. Her mother is a retired Arlington special education teacher and her sister-in-law is an Arlington speech teacher. (And, although not ATA, her grandfather and his brother were both Arlington administrators.) As her father is also a union member with the NYS Bridge Authority, she has an appreciation for unions, expressing, “I grew up identifying the value unions are bringing to our family and how it really did change the trajectory of what my family was able to accomplish.”

For the past seven years Quinn has worked for a national non-profit involved with animal welfare and says that her motivation to work for an organization that makes a difference is

what drew her to the ATA position. A 2004 Arlington graduate, and an English major in college, Quinn says that, “I think that it probably sounds like a strange jump [from animal welfare to a teachers union], but I think that the only thing that I’ve ever really known that I wanted to do was something that felt like it was making an impact.” She sees working for the ATA as a way to contribute to the positive effect education can have on a community without being an educator herself.

Quinn is looking forward to spending time at the ATA office as her previous job was done remotely. She will continue working at that job for a few hours in the mornings, and also teaches an asynchronous online course in marketing for the University of Florida’s veterinary school. She can be found at the ATA office from 12–5 p.m. every day that school is in session.

Dates to Remember

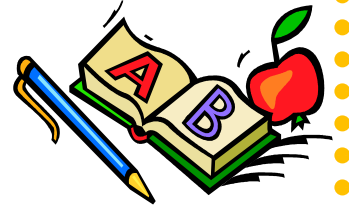
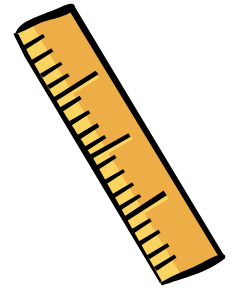


SEPTEMBER

- 13th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., UVMS
- 20th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 26th—Rosh Hashanah—No School
- 27th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

OCTOBER

- 1st—Deadline to submit information for graduate or inservice credit
Deadline for using 2021-2022 Welfare Trust benefits
- 5th—Yom Kippur—No School
- 10th—Columbus Day/Indigenous People Day—No School
- 11th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TIS
- 13th—Arlington Connect Community Engagement Session, 7 p.m., AHS Café C&D
- 18th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 21st—Professional Development Half Day
- 25th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 26th—Elementary School Half Day



Announcements

Save the Date!

The ATA's movie morning is back! Mark your calendars to join us for a screening of *Elf* at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 4 at Hyde Park Roosevelt Cinemas. All proceeds from ticket sales, raffles, and snacks go to benefit the Arlington Education Foundation.

ATA Executive Council meetings are open to all members. They will take place this school year at 4 p.m. in AHS room 1432 on the following Tuesdays: 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 5/9, 6/13

Stay informed! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.